



# A comment on the self-tuning of cosmological constant with deficit angle on a sphere

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## Abstract

In the 6D brane world model with a 4-form flux on a sphere  $S^2$  for self-tuning the cosmological constant, we comment on the fine-tuning problem in view of the quantization of the dual 2-form flux and the orbifolding case  $S^2/Z_2$ .

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For recent few years, the extra-dimensional models where the Standard Model (SM) fields reside in the hypersurface (so-called the brane) of a higher-dimensional spacetime have drawn much attention, in particular, with the hope of solving the cosmological constant problem. In these brane world models, there is a possibility that the SM quantum corrections, which contributes only to a brane tension, could be under control by some bulk relaxation mechanism. We are interested in the *self-tuning* solution in the sense that a 4D flat solution is always obtained by choosing an integration constant of the bulk solution without a fine-tuning between Lagrangian parameters [1].

In 5D models, it has been shown that the attempt with a bulk massless scalar has a hidden fine-tuning in curing the naked singularity of the warp factor [2] and some self-tuning solutions need a particular type

of the bulk action [3] or higher curvature terms [4]. In any case, in 5D self-tuning models, changing a brane tension needs a change of the bulk solution.

On the other hand, in a 6D model with extra dimensions compactified on a factorizable  $S^2$  with a deficit angle, it has been known that changing a brane tension needs only changing a deficit angle once there is a bulk tuning through the flux [5–9]. In this case, the flux is also responsible for the stabilization of extra dimensions. For a concrete example, the bulk 2-form flux has been considered [5,7–9] but it has been shown that the quantization condition makes the flux dependent on the deficit angle and thus a fine-tuning between bulk and brane cosmological constants is indispensable [8,9]. For other example, however, when the bulk 4-form flux is considered instead of the 2-form flux, it has been claimed that there is no flux quantization or no deficit angle dependence of the 4-form flux [9]. Recently, it has been shown that this 6D self-tuning model with 2-form or 4-form flux is not

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different from the old 4D one with a *non-dynamical* 4-form flux from the 4D effective theory point of view [10].

In this Letter, we consider a self-tuning solution with a 3-form field  $A_{MNP}$  ( $M, N, P = 0, 1, 2, 3, 5, 6$ ) in 6D with extra dimensions compactified on a two-sphere  $S^2$  with a deficit angle [9]. We show explicitly that there appears a quantization condition with the deficit angle dependence when the 3-form field couples to a magnetic source. We comment more on the fine-tuning problem in this model.

On any six-dimensional manifold, the dual transformation of the field strength  $H_{MNPQ} = \partial_{[M} A_{NPQ]}$  into a 2-form field strength  $F_{MN} = \partial_{[M} A_{N]}$  is defined as [11]

$$F_{MN} = \frac{1}{4!} \sqrt{-g_6} \epsilon_{MNPQRS} H^{PQRS}, \quad (1)$$

where  $g_6$  is the 6D metric determinant and  $\epsilon_{MNPQRS}$  is the Levi-Civita symbol with  $\epsilon_{012356} = -\epsilon^{012356} = 1$ . Then, the 6D action with a 3-form field and its coupling to both electric and magnetic sources is

$$S = \int d^4x d^2y \sqrt{-g_6} \times \left( \frac{M^4}{2} R - \Lambda_b - \sum_{i=1}^2 \frac{\sqrt{-g_4^{(i)}}}{\sqrt{-g_6}} \Lambda_i \delta^2(y - y_i) \right) - \frac{1}{2 \cdot 4!} \int H \wedge *H - e \int_{W_3} A_3 - g \int_{W_1} A_1, \quad (2)$$

where  $H = dA_3$ , and  $*H$  is the Hodge dual of  $H$ , and  $A_1$  comes from the definition of the dual field strength  $F = dA_1$ , and  $W_3, W_1$  denotes the world volumes of electric and magnetic sources, respectively. Here,  $M$  is the 6D fundamental scale,  $g_4^{(i)}$  are the 4D metric determinants,  $\Lambda_b, \Lambda_i$  are bulk and 3-brane cosmological constants and  $e, g$  are electric and magnetic charges of sources for the 3-form field.

Now let us take the metric ansatz as the direct product of 4D space and a two-sphere with a deficit angle  $2\pi(1 - \beta)$ ,

$$ds^2 = g_{\mu\nu}(x) dx^\mu dx^\nu + \gamma_{mn}(y) dy^m dy^n, \quad (3)$$

with

$$\gamma_{mn}(y) dy^m dy^n = R_0^2 (d\theta^2 + \beta^2 \sin^2 \theta d\phi^2), \quad (4)$$

and the ansatz for the field strength  $H$  as

$$H_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} = \sqrt{-g} \epsilon_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} E, \quad \text{others} = 0, \quad (5)$$

where  $E$  is an arbitrary constant. Then, the ansatz for  $H$  satisfies both the field equation and the Bianchi identity for  $H$

$$\partial_M (\sqrt{-g_6} H^{MNPQ}) = 0, \quad \partial_{[M} H_{NPQR]} = 0. \quad (6)$$

Moreover, the Einstein equation to be also satisfied is

$$G_{MN} \equiv R_{MN} - \frac{1}{2} R g_{MN} = \frac{1}{M^4} T_{MN}, \quad (7)$$

where

$$T_{MN} = - \begin{pmatrix} (\Lambda_b + \frac{1}{2} E^2) g_{\mu\nu} & 0 \\ 0 & (\Lambda_b - \frac{1}{2} E^2) \gamma_{mn} \end{pmatrix} - \sum_{i=1}^2 \frac{\Lambda_i}{\sqrt{\gamma}} \begin{pmatrix} g_{\mu\nu} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \delta^2(y - y_i). \quad (8)$$

Here, the non-vanishing components of the Einstein tensor [5] are given by

$$G_{\mu\nu} = (R_4)_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2} (R_4 + R_2) g_{\mu\nu}, \quad (9)$$

$$G_{mn} = (R_2)_{mn} - \frac{1}{2} (R_4 + R_2) \gamma_{mn}, \quad (10)$$

where  $R_4$  ( $(R_4)_{\mu\nu}$ ),  $R_2$  ( $(R_2)_{mn}$ ) are the Ricci scalars (tensors) for the 4D space and the two-sphere, respectively.

Then, for a 4D flat solution with  $(R_4)_{\mu\nu} = 0$  and  $R_4 = 0$ , the bulk equation gives two conditions

$$E^2 = 2\Lambda_b, \quad (11)$$

$$R_0^{-2} = M^{-4} \left( \Lambda_b + \frac{1}{2} E^2 \right), \quad (12)$$

while the boundary conditions at the branes determine the deficit angle in terms of brane tensions

$$2\pi(1 - \beta) = \Lambda_1 = \Lambda_2. \quad (13)$$

At first sight, it seems that there always exists a flat solution for arbitrary brane tensions once the 3-form flux takes a value satisfying Eq. (11). Since the field strength of the 3-form takes a value only along the 4D space, it looks independent of the geometry of extra dimensions such as the deficit angle. Moreover, it was argued that the fine-tuning between two brane tensions in Eq. (13) is avoidable by considering  $S^2/Z_2$  instead of  $S^2$  [6,9]. As in the case at hand, since there is no

warp factor in the 4D metric part, it seems that one does not need to introduce a 4-brane in the action even after  $Z_2$  orbifolding.

However, this is just the result of disregarding the coupling of the 3-form field to the magnetic sources. By duality of Eq. (1), the ansatz for the 4-form field strength of Eq. (5) becomes the ansatz for the 2-form field strength in the spherical coordinate of extra dimensions

$$F_{\theta\phi} = -\sqrt{\gamma}\epsilon_{\theta\phi}E, \quad \text{others} = 0. \quad (14)$$

Then, with the metric (3), the 1-form gauge field solution is obtained for the upper and lower hemispheres as

$$A_{\phi,\pm} = \beta ER_0^2(\cos\theta \mp c), \quad (15)$$

where  $c = 1$  from the identity,  $\int_{S^2} F_2 = \int_{S^1} (A_{1,+} - A_{1,-})$ . Then, the solutions of the gauge field must be related by a gauge transformation [8,9]:

$$A_{\phi,+} = A_{\phi,-} + \partial\phi\alpha(\phi), \quad (16)$$

where  $\alpha(\phi) = -2\beta ER_0^2\phi$ . Consequently, from the single-valuedness of the gauge transformation  $e^{ig\alpha(\phi)}$ , we get the quantization condition

$$E = \frac{n}{2g\beta R_0^2}, \quad (17)$$

with  $n$  integer. Then, using this quantization condition and Eq. (12), the bulk fine-tuning condition (11) becomes

$$\frac{n^2}{2g^2\beta^2} = \frac{M^8}{\Lambda_b}. \quad (18)$$

Thus, we find that from the quantization of the dual field, the brane tension also enters the fine-tuning condition via the deficit angle.

Now let us remark on the possibility with  $S^2/Z_2$ . In this case, when we consider the covariant derivative for a charged field under the 1-form gauge field, the gauge field transforms under the  $Z_2$  reflection,  $\theta \rightarrow \pi - \theta$  and  $\phi \rightarrow \phi$ , as

$$A_\theta \rightarrow -A_\theta, \quad A_\phi \rightarrow A_\phi. \quad (19)$$

Thus, the field strength also transforms under  $Z_2$  as

$$F_{\theta\phi} \rightarrow -F_{\theta\phi}. \quad (20)$$

Then, we get the field equation for  $F$  as

$$\partial_\theta(\sqrt{\gamma}F^{\theta\phi}) = E\delta\left(\theta - \frac{\pi}{2}\right) \neq 0. \quad (21)$$

This means that in order to match the boundary condition for  $F$ , we must introduce around the equator an extended (4-brane) *electric* source under  $A_1$ , which is an extended *magnetic* source under  $A_3$ . Then, the 6D action for the dual 2-form becomes

$$\int d^4x d^2y \sqrt{-g_6} \times \left( -\frac{1}{4}F_{MN}F^{MN} - \frac{\sqrt{-g_5}}{\sqrt{-g_6}}A_a J^a \delta\left(\theta - \frac{\pi}{2}\right) \right), \quad (22)$$

where  $a$  runs over 0, 1, 2, 3, 6, and  $g_5$  is the determinant of the induced 5D metric on the equator with  $ds_5^2 = ds_4^2 + R_0^2\beta^2 d\phi^2$ , and  $J^a = Q\delta_\phi^a$  with an electric charge  $Q$  under  $A_1$ . Therefore, the modified field equation for  $A_1$  determines the dual 2-form flux in terms of the charge  $Q$  as

$$E = R_0\beta Q. \quad (23)$$

Using Eqs. (11) and (12), this result leads to a necessary condition for the charge as

$$Q = \pm \frac{E}{R_0\beta} = \pm \frac{2\Lambda_b}{\beta M^2}. \quad (24)$$

Due to the  $Z_2$  property of  $F_{\theta\phi}$  (20), the general solution for  $A_\phi$  for the upper and lower hemispheres is given by

$$A_{\phi,\pm} = \pm\beta ER_0^2(\cos\theta + c_\pm), \quad (25)$$

where  $c_\pm$  are integration constants with  $c_+ = -c_-$  for the  $Z_2$  even  $A_\phi$ . The 4-brane source term generically contributes to the energy-momentum tensor as

$$T_{MN} = \left[ \frac{1}{2}(A_a J_b + A_b J_a) - g_{ab}A_c J^c \right] \times \frac{\sqrt{-g_5}}{\sqrt{-g_6}}\delta_M^a \delta_N^b \delta\left(\theta - \frac{\pi}{2}\right), \quad (26)$$

which becomes under our solution

$$T_0^0 = T_i^i = -\frac{Q}{R_0}A_\phi\delta\left(\theta - \frac{\pi}{2}\right), \quad \text{others} = 0. \quad (27)$$

In order for the charged 4-brane not to contribute to the energy-momentum tensor, we need to have

$c_+ = 0$  on the equator as the boundary condition for the gauge field. However, the Stokes theorem does not hold around the 3-brane, i.e.,  $\int_{\Sigma} F_2 \neq \int_{\partial\Sigma} A_1$  where  $\Sigma$  is the infinitesimal surface surrounding the 3-brane. Then, there are two probable solutions for this: one is to modify the field strength  $F$ , and the other is to choose a difference gauge choice with  $c_+ = -1$  at the 3-brane.<sup>1</sup>

In the former case, the solution for  $F_{\theta\phi}$  is supposed to be modified with a singular part,

$$F_{\theta\phi}^s = 2\pi\beta E R_0^2 \epsilon_{\theta\phi} \delta^2(y). \quad (28)$$

Then, the field equation for  $F$  implies that a charge on the 3-brane might be added with the 4D action [12]

$$-q \int d^4x \sqrt{-g_4} F_{\theta\phi} \epsilon^{\theta\phi}, \quad (29)$$

with  $q = -2\pi\beta E R_0^2$ . However, in this case, it would be indispensable to have the original solution modified with a  $\delta^2(0)$  term coming from the singular part of  $F_{\theta\phi}$  in the energy-momentum tensor.

On the other hand, in the latter case, where there are different gauge choices with  $c_+ = -1$  and  $c_+ = 0$ , we can regard the gauge fields to be related to each other by a gauge transformation. Therefore, the dual 2-form flux on  $S^2/Z_2$  is quantized as

$$E_{S^2/Z_2} = \frac{n}{g\beta R_0^2} = 2E_{S^2}, \quad (30)$$

where  $n$  is an integer and the subscript of  $E$  denotes the case we consider. Since the fundamental region on  $S^2/Z_2$  is reduced to one hemisphere, it is reasonable to have the magnitude of the flux doubled, compared with the  $S^2$  case. In this case, even if the original metric solution is maintained, there appears again a fine-tuning condition between brane and bulk cosmological constants in view of the flux quantization (30) as in the  $S^2$  case.

We considered the 6D model with a 4-form flux where the self-tuning idea may be realized via the deficit angle on  $S^2$ . In this case, we have shown that the coupling of the 3-form field to magnetic sources is important for the self-tuning issue. First we have found that there appears a fine-tuning condition via the quantization of the dual 2-form flux. We also

commented on the case with  $S^2/Z_2$  for avoiding a fine-tuning between 3-branes. In this case, we showed that a 4-brane charge must be added on the equator due to the  $Z_2$  property of the gauge field and the dual 2-form flux is also quantized with a deficit angle dependence for maintaining the original metric solution.

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